



ACAB: A Brief Explanation.

many, is necessary. We have this thing called the state, and it makes laws, and needs something to enforce them. Whether those laws were made by democratic means, or by undemocratic means, is largely irrelevant. Remember, the majority and what is popular are not always right. So, you have the state, but the state isn't exactly out in the street enforcing the laws they have written up. They have the police, and military as well. So it follows that the police are the strong arm of the state, and make no mistake about it, they will do their jobs. Whether it is right or wrong, a paycheck is a paycheck. However, are cops personally bad people?

Police are police when they put on that uniform, gear up, and punch in the clock. Outside of their uniform and job, they may very well be loving and caring people. They may have families, volunteer, donate to charities, you get the idea. I've met police who were very civil and courteous to me, but that is rarely the case. I've been slammed to the ground, pulled over at gunpoint, been called a beaner, threatened with having drugs planted on me, and so on. When police

put on that uniform, they become enforcers of the state, and the state doesn't really like the poor people. The state has one tool to enforce its way, and that's the police. Adam Smith said it best: "Laws and government may be considered in this, and indeed, in every case, as a combination of the rich to oppress the poor, and preserve to themselves the inequality of the goods which would otherwise be soon destroyed by the attacks of the poor, who if not hindered by the government would soon reduce the others to an equality with themselves by open violence." Did you catch the magic words there? "...if not hindered by the government would soon reduce the others to an *equality* with themselves by open violence." Oh yeah, the police, are the first thing that stand in the way of equality. The state legislates it, the police enforce it.

So, our natural reaction would be, "well, let's change the legislature to benefit the poor!" Great story. That's all it is, a story. That would fall under the bracket of reform, that is, changing society through the means offered to us. Unfortunately, what is offered is always a small, pitiful handout from the state to placate us into submission. Moderates hail reform, while denying the fact that without the radical element—those who took to the streets putting their life on the line—such reforms would never be possible. The thing is, the radical elements of society aren't putting their fucking lives on the line for handouts, they're there to take back what rightfully belongs to all of us. What is the FIRST

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Anarchists, Super Radicals, and Moral Lords: A Meditation

I've come across a lot of literature and people who have felt that my thoughts, the ones that call for immediate actions, are unwise and untimely. If I were to stop and answer all the criticism that I've come across I would be in a never ending argument, and soon cease in mid-motion, but since I feel that there are people of genuine good will who might not understand my position, I will attempt to articulate my actions, the thoughts that they spawned from, and the emotions from which they were birthed.

My Actions.

I am not advocating for any particular type of motion in any particular place. For the foundation of my argument stems from the belief that, "Our world will not be saved by a few beings doing a few great things, but by many beings doing many humble little things."

So I seek, and partake, in practical steps to better my situation as well as the situation of my neighbors. I use any and all tactics that will yield results, and doing so pay no mind to two groups that deserve special mention in regards to the topic. The "super radicals" and the "moral lords".

The "super radicals" feel that activism is a waste of time and that it does not do enough, and so they do nothing or partake in actions that are very limited in scope. The "moral lords," on the other hand, feel that resistance that is confrontational is damaging to the movement, and so they play in the lines that the state has allowed beings to play in, thereby helping the state promote the idea that we have to be victims and hold the high ground by being beaten into the pavement by the state's fingers.

Both act and think as a vanguard that has some understanding that the average Joe and Jane do not have. As if they have a passion, a heart, that others don't, and that it's all up to them. They will single-handedly free the world of the oppression of capitalism and the state. These individuals attempt to tell beings how to resist their oppression. They insist that there is one road towards liberation and that anyone or anything that does not follow their methods are silly and harmful.

The Thoughts.

We the people are not defined by our society, we the people define it. It truly is, each to their own needs; each with their own ability. We are all individuals and as individuals we contribute differently to our progression. No one can say that their actions are greater than the next since all actions build off of one another until they become one fluid motion. We are in an inescapable network called humanity. What affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We must all resist, and do it in our way, using our capacity.

From that, I add that there is nothing wrong with reforms, but they are a tricky business. Some get lost in it, only seeking reforms as though that in itself is what's needed. That's when activism becomes conformist. Those that use reforms to alleviate the pains of the community while still seeking the overall liberation of all are using these tools as they should be, just tools. Those that speak of radical

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actions and alienate themselves from the common people are destructive to the overall movement.

As the comrade from the Furious Five Collective, Ian Martin, wrote "It is difficult for any human being to pay attention to and fight against relatively nebulous concepts like militarism and the State when they are forced to fight concretely for the very necessities of life everyday." (From Reform To Revolution)

As for the "moral lords," they help perpetuate a culture of victimization. For the being who has been brutalized by the state, more brutalization may not be an option of resistance. And so proclaiming that this is the only option leads some to defeatism or the turning away of possible comrades. A fist to a cop's face may not win the overall liberty but it plays its part by letting the people know that cops aren't untouchable and that the people can touch them.

The Emotions.

I do not wish to die, but as I look around at these same faces that organize and resist state oppression, it becomes clear that we are to be singled out. None of us have ever lived as free beings. We have always had that dagger that looms over us, whether it be economic threats, gender discrimination, racism, or even parents, with their idea of children being property. There has always been some obstacle that stood between us and the free breathing that is innate in human beings, and with that I say, I fear that we will suffer a horrible torturous death, with our names being forgotten through the mist of the mis-information. No, there will be no glory for beings as us. We will die as we lived. Lost in a laborious toil that is downplayed, belittled, and repulsive.

To say that I fear no death, although true, leaves a lot unsaid. I speak of my death not due to illusions of grandness (for you will never know my name), but because it is the sad truth. There are groups of beings everywhere united for real revolutionary goals. These beings have organized against and resisted state power, and in doing so have been photographed and videotaped. Why else but to be pulled away into one of Creedies' black bags? To be put in a manmade purgatory, where our guards will pound on our flesh and mutilate our very essences? Or to catch a bullet with our skulls?

How can anyone see this as romantic? I've spent years in purgatory fighting against the rats for the little food I could attain in the cold, dark, solitary cells of the isolation units. I have been a slave since birth, but my freedom is nothing compared to the joy of dying for you? Yeah, sure, because I'm Christ! If you yourself won't do this for yourself, then why would I? They pat us on the back and smile at our actions, or slander us and work to hasten our deaths. They paint us as the villain or hero, but we ascribe to neither. We are anarchists, excuse me, revolutionary anarchists. Never for a moment have our actions been selfless. We seek our liberty. A liberty that can only exist through the liberty of all. **'Til Victory or Death!** — Bl@ck Flag Staff Writer

Why I'm Not Voting for Mr. "Obam-ney" (or anyone else for that matter):

Omar's Down-and-Dirty Anarchist 2012 Voting Guide

(WARNING: Explicit Language, NSFW and all that shit)

Recently, noted anarchist Noam Chomsky said that he's probably voting Green Party this election, but that if he lived in a swing state, he'd likely vote Obama. He went on to explain that voting will never lead to real social change, and that no serious activist should spend more than 10 minutes on it. However, he said, if you're faced with a choice between two complete assholes, and the only difference is that one of the assholes is dedicated to doing even one extra evil fucked up thing—ban abortion, for example—that the other asshole has not pledged to do, then it might make sense to vote for the lesser-of-two-assholes.

I feel brother Noam's argument. I don't think his statement makes him a nutjob, a class traitor, or a fascist-in-anarchists'-black-clothing (as some have said). But, at the same time, I completely disagree with him.

First off, whenever you vote for any kind of professional party leader to represent you, you're implicitly legitimizing our fucked up, plutocratic, sexist, homophobic, neo-imperialist, ravenous capitalist socio-economic-political system. You're implying that it's ok to choose some millionaire asshole to make decisions for you—decisions that you and your community should be making

yourselves. You're tacitly giving that millionaire asshole and his millionaire asshole buddies in Congress and on Wall Street the power to tell you what to do and how to live, and the right to enforce that power with violence. You're conceding that direct democracy, consensus, popular referenda, horizontal organizing, general assemblies, free voluntary association, mutual aid, peaceful coexistence, live-and-let-live and love-thy-neighbor (as long as thy neighbor consents!) are touchie-feelie Utopian concepts that look great on paper but will never work in practice. You're voting for your own prison guard, slave-driver, and executioner. Sorry Noam, but fuck that.

And speaking of millionaire assholes, make no mistake: about 50 % percent of your elected representatives are millionaires, and the rest aren't far behind. If you want to look it up, check out the work done by the nonprofit Center for Responsive Politics. According to them, the median net worth of a member of the House is around \$750,000. For a Senator, it's around \$2.5 million. MEDIAN. For the mathematically-inclined homies, that means it's not skewed by outliers. Look it up if you don't believe me. Even the crypto-fascist Big Business media outlets like the Capitalist Broadcasting Service (CBS) and National Petroleum Radio (NPR) were all over that story.

So, all that being said, the only thing it really makes sense to vote

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("Omar's Down-and-Dirty Anarchist 2012 Voting Guide" continued from page 2...)

on are the Propositions or Measures—whatever the fuck they call them in your area—the popular referenda on new laws. Not that those aren't also a steaming morass of rotten shit being served up to us by the 0.01% Billionaire Assholes Club. But at least your vote actually has the effect of chiming in Yes or No on the actual legislation, and you just might win a genuine reform or two (once every forty years), or prevent some Rightwing Neo-Con Religious fuck from making it harder to buy weed or easier to fuck over women (or queer, black, brown, or poor people—whatever he's in the mood for this cycle).

So here goes. My personal voting recommendations:

President: Fuck that! Why would I want to choose my oppressor? If you wanna be a real smartass, write-in Big Bird.

Every other elected official: Fuck that, see above. Or do what Brother Noam suggests, but don't blame me and my comrades when the brown shirts come marching to town.

Prop 30: Temporary Tax Increases for Education and other Needs—Vote Yes

This watered-down butchery of the Millionaires Tax includes a regressive sales tax increase for 4 years coupled with a 7-year modest income tax increase for people making \$250,000 and above. This is a real tough call. If it doesn't pass, there will automatically be \$6 billion dollar budget gap, leading to dramatic cuts to public education, laying off thousands, decimating programs, etc. On the other hand, I can't in good conscience support regressive taxation. However, it's either this or Prop 38 (see below)—the one with the most votes wins. So, IMHO, plug your nose, and vote a begrudging Yes on 30.

Prop 31: State Budget Restrictions—Vote NO

This one's really complicated, but involves tying any new state expenditures to budget cuts, and gives the governor emergency powers to

order unilateral cuts during hard economic times (read: all the time). Total bullshit, if you give a fuck about state services like schools or fire departments.

Prop 32: Limits Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction—Vote NO

As a class-struggle anarchist, I'm a big fan of labor unions (especially radical ones), but I have my serious reservations about the big union bureaucracies whose sell-out leaders just funnel money to the Dems. That being said, this law is a bullshit attempt to prevent labor unions

from being involved in politics while leaving the Super PACs and the Monsantos of the world alone. Fuck that, and fuck the Koch Brothers too.

Prop 33: Car Insurance Increases based on Prior History—Vote NO

Here we see the insurance industry trying to raise premiums for people who haven't had continuous coverage for five consecutive years. So poor people, minorities, immigrants, students.

Prop 34: Replace the Death Penalty with Life Without Parole—Vote YES

Ends the Death Penalty in California. 'Nuff said. Actually, this particular piece of legislation has problems, including mandatory life without parole plus forced labor for anyone convicted of murder. But until we abolish all prisons, we can't lose this opportunity to end legally-sanctioned murder by the state.

Prop 35: Increases the Penalties for Human Trafficking—Vote NO

Human trafficking is, of course, totally fucked up. The problem with this law is that it would make it easier for the state to screw over any sex worker, trafficked or not. It also basically just reinforces existing laws without offering much help to victims.

Prop 36: Revises the Three Strikes Law—Vote YES

Like Prop 34, this one has some problems. Instead of just repealing the whole sordid disaster that is Three Strikes (which mandates life in prison for anyone convicted of 3 felonies), it offers some leeway for judges to

limit the life sentence in certain very specific cases. Not great, but a tiny step forward.

Prop 37: Labeling Genetically Engineered Food—Vote YES

Very simple. People should be told what they're consuming. No serious problems here.

Prop 38: Income Tax Increase to Fund Education—Vote NO

Similar to Prop 30, but even more regressive (income tax increases on everybody), and includes other shady provisions like funneling money directly to private charter school corporations.

Prop 39: Multi-state Business Taxes—Vote YES

This one closes a tax loophole for companies that take their business out of the state. Sounds good to me.

Those are just my recommendations. As always, keep struggling, and make up your own damn mind. Special thanks to FSP, whose voting guide was very helpful in creating this one. And remember, as Emma Goldman famously joked, "If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal."

—Omar Hussein, BI@ck Flag Editorial Staff

VOTE FOR NOBODY

NOBODY WILL KEEP ELECTION PROMISES
NOBODY WILL LISTEN TO YOUR CONCERNS
NOBODY WILL HELP THE POOR AND UNEMPLOYED
NOBODY CARES!
IF NOBODY IS ELECTED, THINGS WILL BE BETTER FOR EVERYONE



NOBODY TELLS THE TRUTH



Copwatch: Purpose and Goals

(excerpted from the Berkeley Copwatch *Copwatch Handbook*
www.berkeleycopwatch.org/resources/Handbook_06.pdf)

I. To Reduce Police Violence Through Accountability



1. Directly observe the police on the street

a. Watch and document incidents

b. Maintain principles of non-violence while asserting the rights of the detained person.

c. Be a witness for the detained person

d. Demonstrate citizen monitoring for those observing an incident

e. Educate the public about police conduct

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thing standing in the way? The police, the people who are paid by the state, and, horrendously ironically, ultimately paid—via taxation—by the people they oppress. What stops the hungry man from robbing the rich man so he can eat? The police, of course. What stops the desperate mother from stealing to put a roof over her children's heads? The police, obviously. In other words, who is the front line in the fight against the very thing that keeps us in shackles? The police, you should know this by now. You don't? Not to worry, I know what you are implying when you say, "not all people of a certain group (in this case, police) are always alike." I understand that feeling, and I'll respond to it.

It's a cliché to say that small town cops are more civil than inner city cops. It must be noted that small town cops are more likely to live in the town they police, so they are part of the community. Whereas, inner city cops tend to live outside the community and thus have little to no understanding of the problems of the community they patrol. It should also be noted that small town crime is understandably linked to inner city crime (which is explained quite well here <https://www.ncjrs.gov/txtfiles/crimopol.txt>). Now, if we are to take into account the narrative of liberal vs. conservative, the only difference is, conservatives hate inner city criminals, and liberals hate rural criminals. The narrative is obvious if you really pay attention. Conservatives have their enemy, the poor person of color stealing to eat. The liberals have their enemy, the poor rural bumpkin cooking meth to eat. Either side is just a different shade of elitist theories. Both sides have one weapon in common against their preferred poverty victim—the police. Always, the police.

Here is the very core of the argument against police. It's blunt, but as honest as it can be. It is not the man behind the uniform, but rather, what the uniform stands for. From Omali Yeshitela, this is about the state and the police, an intertwined institute:

*"You have the emergence in human society
Of this thing that's called the state.
What is the state? The state is this organized
bureaucracy.
It is the po-lice department. It is the army, the navy.
It is the prison system, the courts, and what have you.
This is the state — it is a repressive organization
But the state — and gee, well, you know,
You've got to have the police, cause..
If there were no police, look at what you'd be doing to yourselves!
You'd be killing each other if there were no police!
But the reality is...
The police become necessary in human society
Only at that junction in human society
Where it is split between those who have and those who ain't got."*

So maybe I can be blamed for hating the symptom and not the cause. I hate police, but police are the symptom of the state. But because I despise the state, I hate the police. Therefore, I hate the symptoms and the cause. I don't hate the person who goes home to his/her kids. I hate the person who deprives other people of the right to eat at the "expense" of the rich person. That person, who is on the clock, serving the state is a disservice, even an enemy, to the populace. I don't hate the individual, I hate the institution. All cops are bastards, because they put on that hideous state uniform, and perform hideous crimes in the name of the state. I hate that they are fellow human beings, on the wrong side of humanity. I appreciate those who try to reason with



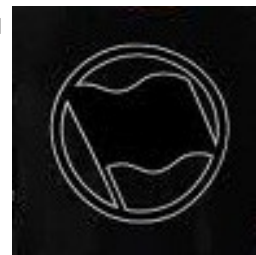
them, to persuade them to drop their weapons and join us. I also understand those who have lost all patience with state violence, and have turned to self defense. It isn't your place, nor mine, to tell people how to deal with repression. Some of you have had nice interactions with police, I mean, I won't forget what happened in Wisconsin, when police joined the occupation of the capitol in Madison. One cannot forget, however, what they do elsewhere. So please, I'll accept your opinions on the police, please respect mine, as well as those of the countless victims of beating, intimidation, invasion of privacy, sexual assault, torture, and murder—all carried out by police keeping us in line so we never threaten their State masters. —Dick Whiskey

("Copwatch Handbook" Excerpt continued from page 3...)

2. Follow up with public pressure in legal proceedings
- a. Support brutality victims in defense of false charges
- b. Encourage and assist people in filing complaints or even suing police
- c. Lobby to stop discriminatory legislation and policies that increase police powers over people's civil and human rights.

II. To Empower and Unite The Community By Looking Out For Each Other

1. Educate the community about their rights
- a. Distribute literature and publish findings
- b. Do *Know Your Rights* training and any other classes, forums, demonstrations that can help the public understand the real situation.
2. Expand community support for victims of police crime and community based efforts to organize against brutality.
3. Encourage people to solve problems WITHOUT police intervention.
Explore alternatives to calling the police.
4. Encourage people to exercise their right to observe the police and to advocate for one another. —Copwatch Handbook



F@@’s third annual Skid Row Clothing Giveaway

The F@@ is soliciting donations. If you have new or used clothing, socks, hats, accessories or children's toys, please email faacollective@gmail.com or leave a message with Breino at 323-470-2504. All donations welcomed and appreciated.

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Call to Anarchist Federation

The F@@ is reaching out to all Anarchist groups interested in building a Federated body that could coordinate events, share information, issue joint statements, and generally build the Anarchist movement locally, nationally, and globally. If you or your group/collective is interested, please contact us at faacollective@gmail.com.

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